

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please amend claims 1, 4, 16, 22-25 and 27 and claims 28-31 are newly added so that the current status of all claims is as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

grouping ~~said~~ a plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:

arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page layout;

scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and

determining an amount of white space on the page layout;

wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed ~~and having white space between said plurality of digital images;~~
~~analyzing each of said different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images in accordance to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts;~~
and

selecting ~~the~~ a page layout ~~based on~~ having the a minimal amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.~~

2. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising placing said plurality of digital images in said selected page layout.

3. Cancelled

4 (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 ~~wherein said analyzing said different page layouts comprises~~ further comprising scoring each of said different page layouts.

5. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of further scaling the digital images of said selected page layout by different amounts.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the amount of white space is minimized by using stochastic algorithms.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said different page layouts includes placing images in a non-overlapping pattern.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein said placing of said plurality of digital images in said different page layouts comprises scaling all of said images such that they fit within said page format.

9. (currently amended) The method according to claim 4 wherein said analyzing of said different page layouts comprises a iteration of comparing sequentially two different page layouts and selecting the best page layout until ~~little or~~ no further improvement in scoring is obtained.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of scaling at least one of said plurality of digital images of the page layout obtained after said iteration.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9 further comprising the step of rotating at least one of said plurality of said digital images a predetermined amount.

12. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein said scaling of said plurality of digital images comprises reducing the size of said plurality of digital images.

13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of positioning said images in said selected page layout so as to provide a desired border on said page.

14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined vertically between adjacent images in said page layouts.

15 (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein said white space is determined horizontally between adjacent images in said page layouts.

16. (currently amended) A system for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, comprising:

a first computer for composing a plurality of digital images on a page;

a software program such that when loaded on said computer will ~~causes~~ cause said computer to group said plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:

nonoverlapped images scaled to fit on the page layout; and
white space;

wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed ~~and having white space between said plurality of digital images;~~

~~analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of said white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and~~

a computer readable code device configured to cause the computer to effect selecting the a page layout based on said the having a minimal amount of

white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.~~

17. (previously presented) The system according to claim 16, wherein said computer can be accessed remotely over a communication network.

18. (previously presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a second computer.

19. (previously presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein said software program is run on said first computer.

20. (previously presented) The system according to claim 18, wherein said second computer is the personal computer of a customer.

21. (previously presented) The system according to claim 17, wherein said computer is accessed by a retail kiosk.

22. (currently amended) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format which when loaded into a computer causes the computer to perform the following steps:

grouping ~~said a~~ plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:

arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page layout;

scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and

determining an amount of white space on the page layout;

wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed ~~and having white space between said plurality of digital images;~~

~~analyzing each of said different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images in accordance~~

~~to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts;~~
and

selecting ~~the a~~ page layout ~~based on said~~ having the a minimal
amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page
layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of~~
digital images.

23. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of
digital images in a predetermined page format utilizing a software program
running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

providing a plurality of digital images;

selecting a number of said digital images for placement on said
predetermined format;

grouping ~~said a~~ plurality of digital images into a plurality of
different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:

arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page
layout;

scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and

determining an amount of white space on the page layout;

wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said
plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed ~~and~~
~~having white space between said plurality of digital images;~~

normalizing said plurality of digital images that are to be placed on
each of said different page layouts;

~~analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a~~
~~respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page~~
~~layouts; and~~

selecting ~~the a~~ page layout ~~based on said~~ having the a minimal
amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page
layouts.

24. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of
digital images in a predetermined page format including an image void area
utilizing a software program running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying an area to be void of digital images;
grouping ~~said a~~ plurality of digital images into a plurality of
different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:
arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page
layout;
scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and
determining an amount of white space on the page layout;
wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said
plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed ~~and~~
~~having white space between said plurality of digital images;~~
~~analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a~~
~~respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page~~
~~layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital~~
~~images; and~~
selecting ~~the a~~ page layout ~~based on said~~ having the a minimal
amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page
layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of~~
~~digital images.~~

25. (currently amended) A method of organizing a plurality of
digital images in a predetermined page format including at least one digital image
to be placed in a predetermined image location utilizing the software program
running on a computer, comprising the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said
at least one predetermined image location;
grouping ~~said a~~ plurality of digital images into a plurality of
different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:
arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page
layout;
scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and
determining an amount of white space on the page layout;
wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said
plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed

including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

~~analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with a respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and~~

selecting ~~the~~ a page layout ~~based on said~~ having the a minimal amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of digital images.~~

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25 further comprising the step of permitting a user to request another page layout.

27. (currently amended) A computer software product for organizing a plurality of digital images in a predetermined format, said software program when loaded onto a computer causes the computer to perform the steps of:

identifying said at least one digital image and the location of said at least one predetermined image location;

grouping ~~said~~ a plurality of digital images into a plurality of different page layouts, each of the page layouts comprising:

arranging said images to be nonoverlapping on a page layout;

scaling said images to fit on the page layout; and

determining an amount of white space on the page layout;

wherein any one of said plurality of images may be located in any position in said plurality of page layouts, each of said page layouts capable of being printed including said at least one image placed in said at least one predetermined image location;

~~analyzing each of said different page layouts in accordance with respect to the amount of white space in each of said plurality of different page layouts and spatially balancing said white space between said plurality of digital images; and~~

selecting ~~the~~ a page layout ~~based on said~~ having the a minimal amount of white space ~~determined for each of~~ from said plurality of different page layouts ~~and the spatial balance of said white space between said plurality of~~ digital images.

28. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein scaling said images further comprises scaling said image isotropically.

29. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein grouping the plurality of images further comprises resizing one or more of the plurality of images to be aesthetically balanced.

30. (new) The method according to claim 1 further comprising randomly rotating an image or rotating the image in a predetermined pattern.

31. (new) The method according to claim 1 further comprising spatially balancing the whit space between said plurality of digital images.